

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112 FIRST PARAGRAPH

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 11-13 were rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, Applicants amend claim 11 and cancel claim 13 herein to more clearly define the invention, and believe the rejection is overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112 SECOND PARAGRAPH

In paragraphs 4-8 of the Office Action, claims 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, and 30-32 were rejected as indefinite. In response, Applicants cancel claims 13 and 16-18 and amend claims 10-11, 15, 20-21, and 30 herein to more clearly define the invention, and believe the rejections are overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 14-15, 24-25, and 32 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,351,536 to Sasaki. In response, Applicants cancel claims 2 and 4 and amend claims 1, 3, 14-15, and 24-25 herein to more clearly define the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as discussed below.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In paragraphs 12, 13, and 14 of the Office Action, claims 5, 7-10, 12, 16-19, 27-29, 31, and 33 were rejected as unpatentable over various combinations of prior art references as detailed above. In response, Applicants cancel claims 5 and 16-18 and amend claims 7-10,

19, 24, and 29 herein to more clearly define the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Vobach neither teaches nor suggests the use of suffixes as described by the present invention; instead, Vobach uses prefixes and suffixes of pseudo-random integers of predetermined lengths to "pad" ciphertext strings to make the ciphertext difficult to attack by those who intercept it (col. 7, lines 16-23). Win teaches role-based web access, wherein each user's role within an enterprise that controls the resources determines whether access is authorized. (abstract and col. 2 lines 54-56). In contrast, the present invention restricts even the awareness of the availability of sensitive information, so that those parties not intended to have access to the sensitive information are unaware of its availability altogether (page 4 lines 7-9).

All pending claims are now believed to be allowable. Amendments to claims 1 and 24 are believed to encompass the allowable subject matter found in as-filed claims 6, 26, and 34-36. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative if a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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